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different transactions, was necessary, as otherwise the rules were liable to be misinterpreted. Another change proposed was that the old rules for levying Rs. 2 up to Rs. 500 be continued and that Rs. 3 might be levied from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The old practice of presenting copies of documents along with the originals for registration should be restored, as the present system was likely to give rise to mal-practices.

Mr. Krishnan Mathevan (Member, Karunagapalli taluk) urged the restoration of the old practice of presenting copies of documents with the originals for registration on the following grounds:—

(1) the copying of documents by the gumastas was likely to be done fraudulently to the detriment of the parties concerned;

(2) there was no necessity for adopting the British system here, as the conditions of the British and the Travancore land-owners widely differed;

(3) the office work had been considerably increased and only few documents could be taken for registration and returned on the same day;

(4) there was no record in the Government custody, containing the signature of the parties.

The Member then referred to the irresponsibility of the copyists (document-writers) and suggested that only qualified men should be allowed to write out documents and that a Circular should be issued to the effect that corrections in the documents should be avoided as far as possible and that documents containing corrections in regard to the amount, time, &c. should not be accepted.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

Certain hardships caused to the people by the Registration Department and measures for remedying the same.

Mr. Devan Govindan (Member, Quilon taluk) said that the new Registration Rules caused much hardship to the poor people, as the majority of the documents registered were below Rs. 350, and that there was no necessity for increasing the fees as far as the Department was concerned, in that the Department showed a steady increase of revenue from 1080 to 1086.

The Member then pointed out the lack of courtesy and the high-handed way of dealing with things on the part of certain young graduate Sub-Registrars. He also referred to the document-writers and said that they were a greedy set and caused much trouble and loss to the poor, ignorant people who went on business to the offices. The Member prayed for the following remedies:—

(1) that the registration fees might be modified in such a way as to lessen the pressure on the poor people;

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(2) that the documents presented should be accepted but might be returned within 15 days;

(3) that applications for copies should be accepted from 10 A. M. to 2 P. M. as in the Civil Courts;

(4) that arrangements should be made for the grant of a certificate, on payment of a fee of Rs. 2½, giving detailed information of all the documents executed by a family in 12 years;

(5) to adopt such measures as would prevent the document-writers from troubling the public.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

36. Re-transfer to Vaikom of the jurisdiction of the Pallipuram *pakuthi*.

Mr. P. C. Krishna Pillai, (Member, Vaikom taluk) said that the Pallipuram *pakuthi* was till 1083 under the jurisdiction of the Vaikom Sub-Registrar, when it was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Arukutty Sub-Registrar. Pallipuram was only 1½ miles from Vaikom, but Arukutty was 8 miles away. The Member stated that it would afford much convenience to the people of the above *pakuthi*, if the same be put under the Vaikom Sub-Registrar, as before.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

IV. Production and Distribution.

(1). Agriculture.

37. Measures for improving the methods of cultivation of gardens and wet lands, as the present system is attended with difficulties and inconvenience.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Kymal (Member, Shertallai taluk) said that the cultivation of the lands in the Shertallai taluk was difficult, as brackish water from the sea and the backwater which adjoined the fields often flowed in and destroyed the crops. During monsoon times, floods prevented cultivation, as there was no outlet for the water except by opening the bar. The inhabitants of the locality had to spend large sums of money to open and close the bar at appropriate seasons. The Member said that the construction of a canal right through the fields from Arthinkal to the Veluthully backwater, with a bund to prevent the inrush of brackish water, would enable the ryots to carry on cultivation without the necessity of opening the bar. He then referred to the old channels and canals which existed as *porambokes* and urged that they should be widened and put in order, so as to be utilised for agricultural purposes. The Member also stated that the opening of a manure depot in their midst would be of use to them in improving the soil, which was of a sandy character and required manuring.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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